Central Intelligence Agency



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I have the opportunity to present a number of awards and medals but I especially looked forward to presenting you with the Career Intelligence Medal. I regret that the siren song of Congress once again intervenes.

Your departure saddens many of us on two counts, both of them selfish. First, we see you leaving this seemingly unreal world of intelligence for a somehow more real world and, above all, the life out of doors -- a life that because of its remoteness to us seems so attractive (until the first blizzard). Second, and more important, we are sad to see you leave because we genuinely will miss you. In this city, smart people who are down to earth, humane, and funny as well, are too rare for us not to regret the departure of even one. And that regret is all the greater when the person involved has been an admired manager and an even more admired colleague and friend.

My guess is you have no idea just how many are truly sorry to see you and your family leave. In the eyes of many of us, you have personified qualities that we seek in our own lives, personal and professional. We truly will miss having you around and enjoying the benefit of your common sense, insight and good humor.

We wish you the very best.

Regards,

Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

